

**I/WE CLAIM:**

1. A washing machine comprising:
  - a cabinet shell;
  - an outer tub mounted within the cabinet shell, said outer tub including a rear wall portion, a central hub portion and a main body portion defining an interior cavity;
  - an inner tub supported for rotation within the interior cavity of the outer tub, said inner tub including a plurality of balancing fluid receiving pockets;
  - a balancing fluid reservoir connected to the main body portion at an upper region of the outer tub; and
  - at least one balancing fluid channel leading from the reservoir to the plurality of balancing fluid receiving pockets for delivering balancing fluid to select ones of the balancing fluid receiving pockets.
2. The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein the balancing fluid reservoir is integrally molded to the main body portion of the outer tub.
3. The washing machine according to claim 2, wherein the balancing fluid reservoir is integrally molded to an upper surface of the main body portion and projects above the main body portion.
4. The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein the at least one balancing fluid channel constitutes first and second delivery channels and a return channel, each of said first and second delivery channels and

said return channel being, at least in part, integrally formed along the rear wall portion of the outer tub.

5. The washing machine according to claim 4, further comprising: a plurality of raised wall portions extending between and separating the first and second delivery channels and the return channel.

6. The washing machine according to claim 5, wherein at least the raised wall portion extending between the first and second delivery channels is constituted by a double wall portion.

7. The washing machine according to claim 5, further comprising: a cover plate adapted to extend over and seal the first and second delivery channels and the return channel through the raised wall portions.

8. The washing machine according to claim 7, further comprising: first and second receiver openings extending through the cover plate adjacent to the central hub portion.

9. The washing machine according to claim 8, further comprising: first and second injector valves mounted in the first and second receiver openings.

10. The washing machine according to claim 9, further comprising: a plurality of mounting bosses carried by the cover plate about each of the first and second receiver openings, said plurality of mounting bosses being adapted to receive first and second retaining members for securing

the first and second injector valves in the first and second receiver openings respectively.

11. The washing machine according to claim 1, further comprising: an amount of balancing fluid at least partially contained within the balancing fluid reservoir, said amount of balancing fluid being formed from a composition of water and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of: calcium chloride, propylene glycol or ethylene glycol.

12. The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein the balancing fluid reservoir, at least one balancing fluid channel and the plurality of balancing fluid receiving pockets form part of an overall closed balancing fluid containment system.

13. An outer tub for a washing machine including a rear wall portion, a central hub and a main body portion comprising:

a balancing fluid reservoir connected to the main body portion at an upper region of the outer tub; and  
at least one balancing fluid channel leading from the reservoir.

14. The outer tub according to claim 13, wherein the balancing fluid reservoir is integrally molded to the main body portion.

15. The outer tub according to claim 14, wherein the balancing fluid reservoir is integrally molded to an upper surface of the main body portion and projects above the main body portion.

16. The outer tub according to claim 13, wherein the at least one balancing fluid channel constitutes first and second delivery channels and a return channel, each of said first and second delivery channels and said return channel being, at least in part, integrally formed along the rear wall portion.

17. The outer tub according to claim 16, further comprising: a plurality of raised wall portions extending between and separating the first and second delivery channels and the return channel.

18. The outer tub according to claim 17, wherein at least the raised wall portion extending between the first and second delivery channels is constituted by a double wall portion.

19. The outer tub according to claim 13, further comprising: an amount of balancing fluid at least partially contained within the balancing fluid reservoir, said amount of balancing fluid being formed from a composition of water and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of: calcium chloride, propylene glycol or ethylene glycol.

20. The outer tub according to claim 13, wherein the balancing fluid reservoir, at least one balancing fluid channel and a plurality of balancing fluid receiving pockets form part of an overall closed balancing fluid containment system.

21. A method of forming an outer tub of a washing machine comprising:

creating a substantially cylindrical main body portion having an end which is at least substantially closed by a rear wall portion having an associated central portion;

providing a balancing fluid reservoir at an upper region of the main body portion;

forming at least one balancing fluid delivery channel along the rear wall portion of the outer tub, with the at least one balancing fluid delivery channel extending radially toward the central portion; and

fluidly interconnecting the balancing fluid reservoir and the at least one balancing fluid delivery channel.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising: forming at least one passage leading from the at least one balancing fluid delivery channel through the main body portion adjacent the central portion.

23. The method of claim 21, further comprising: forming a return channel for the balancing fluid along the rear wall portion.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising: integrally molding the balancing fluid reservoir and the outer wall portion.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising: forming a balancing fluid from a mixture of water and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of: calcium chloride, propylene glycol or ethylene glycol.

26. The method of claim 21, further comprising: forming a closed balancing fluid containment system including at least the balancing fluid reservoir, said at least one balancing fluid delivery channel and a plurality of balancing fluid receiving pockets.